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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Office of the General Counsel  
OGC Has Reviewed

DATE: 11 May 1954

FROM : Chief, Travel Section, Finance Division

SUBJECT: Travel on Ships of United States Registry

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1.   
travel of employees to be made on ships registered under the laws of the United States where such ships are available.
  2. This section has been processing all vouchers which have claimed travel via foreign vessel in accordance with the above noted regulation.
  3. We have also been asked specific questions by individual travelers and by administrative personnel, both at Headquarters and field stations, in which our answers are necessarily guided by the above noted regulation. However, the answers are based upon the Finance Division interpretation of the regulation.
  4. Listed below are the specific cases which we have given our interpretation of the regulation:
    - a. An employee authorized to travel from an overseas station to Headquarters desires to take leave enroute. After the taking of leave, employee finds that the only vessel available at that time is a foreign vessel. This office ruling in such a case would be that the individual is responsible for the cost of passage. Inasmuch as the taking of leave was responsible for the necessity of use of foreign vessel, we do not believe the employee's statement that it was the only vessel "available" falls within the meaning of the regulation.
    - b. An employee authorized to travel from an overseas station to Headquarters is allowed to travel indirect; however, he is to be reimbursed travel expenses not to exceed what would have been incurred by direct travel. Said employee travels partially via foreign vessel and partially via United States vessel. This office would reimburse the employee for expenses actually incurred or the comparative cost for direct travel whichever was

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cheaper. However, we would not allow the cost of transportation for foreign vessel to be included as part of the actual expense to the employee.

5. This section would appreciate your comments as to the correctness of our interpretations in the instances cited. We would also appreciate any comments you may have or obtain from the Department of State rulings or from decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States.

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